

## I CLAIM:

1           1. A modifier selectively to vary an observed property of  
2 an observable surface, said surface overlaying a substrate, said  
3 modifier comprising:

4               a Peltier effect thermoelectric cell having a first and  
5 a second cell surface, the temperature of said cell surfaces  
6 being selectively variable as the consequence of an electrical  
7 control current applied to said cell; and

8               a thermally-responsive layer responsive to the  
9 temperature of one of said cell surfaces, said thermally  
10 responsive layer being so disposed and arranged as to constitute  
11 the observed surface, the response of said thermally-responsive  
12 layer being to modify an inherent property of its material.

1           2. A modifier according to claim 1 in which said  
2 modification is selective by a user in response to a requirement  
3 for modification perceived by the user.

1           3. A modifier according to claim 1 in which the modified  
2 observed property is color or temperature.

1           4. A modifier according to claim 1 in which said  
2 modification is adaptively made in response to a signal received  
3 from another source.

1           5. A modifier according to claim 2 in which said modified  
2 observed property is temperature or radar frequency.

1           6. A modifier according to claim 1 in which a plurality of  
2 said Peltier cells occupy a substantial area of said observable  
3 surface.

1           7. A modifier according to claim 1 in which said  
2 observable surface is spaced from a source of heat which is to be  
3 hidden.

1           8. A modifier according to claim 5 in which a control  
2 responsive to a received radar frequency causes selective  
3 modification to said thermally-responsive layer.

1           9. A modifier according to claim 8 in which said  
2 thermally-responsive layer includes fibers of carbon, copper or  
3 silver.